



## **CRAIG LAUNDY MP**

Federal Member for Reid

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

4 May 2016

## **Delivering on mental health and enhanced support for veterans in Reid**

Member for Reid, Craig Laundy today said \$37.9 million had been committed in the Budget to improve access to mental health treatment for veterans.

Anyone in Reid who has served in the ADF permanent forces will be eligible for treatment of conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, and alcohol and substance abuse. Eligible veterans will receive a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) White Health Card.

"The earlier a veteran can get help the better the likely outcome — if an eligible person living in Reid requires treatment, it is funded," Mr Laundy said.

"We are also providing \$1 million for existing and new initiatives to help veterans at risk of suicide."

Craig Laundy said the Government had committed \$24.8 million for a project to improve how claims were processed with a further \$23.9 million to maintain the critical compensation processing systems.

"This project will aim to reduce waiting times and improve the experience of veterans and their families who are making a claim," Mr Laundy said.

"This will ensure the DVA reduces processing times and continues its transformation to better serve the veteran and defence communities."

The Turnbull Government's 2016-17 Budget provides \$7.5 million to refurbish and rebuild 3,800 war graves and memorials in Australia and Papua New Guinea and to undertake safety and maintenance work at the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum in Thailand to accommodate the significant number of visitors.

"Maintaining the war graves of Australians who died fighting for our country is one of the most important ways we acknowledge the sacrifice of our service men and women," Mr Laundy said.

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